

Legislative/Governmental Affairs Update

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Director, Office of Governmental Affairs

October 31, 2017

UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Nominee for Director of USPTO: Andrei Iancu

115th Congress (first session)

- Nominated on August 25, 2017
- Managing partner at Irell & Manella LLP
- Has conducted courtesy meetings with Senate Judiciary Committee members and staff in September and October
- Next Steps:
 - Hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee
 - Committee Vote
 - Vote by the Full Senate

Congressional Activity – Calendar

115th Congress (first session)

- **Federal Budget:** Operating under a Continuing Resolution (CR) until December 8, 2017 for FY 2018
- **General Legislative Agenda for remainder of 2017:**
 - Tax reform
 - Budget / FY 2018 Appropriations
 - NAFTA Renegotiation (*will require congressional ratification/possible implementation*)

Congressional Events

115th Congress (first session)

Bipartisan Judiciary Staff Briefing on Geographical Indications (GIs)

September 21, 2017, Senate Dirksen Building

- USPTO and industry associations met with House and Senate Judiciary Staff to provide an overview of geographical indications and the legal and practical impact of recent international developments on the rights of U.S. trademark owners
 - USPTO Staff: Shira Perlmutter, Chief Policy Officer, and Amy Cotton, Senior Counsel for Trademark Policy, Office of Policy and International Affairs
 - Industry Associations: Consortium for Common Food Names; International Dairy Foods Association; Wine Institute; North American Meat Institute; and National Association of Manufacturers

Congressional Events

115th Congress (first session)

Congressional Trademark Caucus Relaunch *(in collaboration with INTA)*

October 11, 2017, Capitol Hill

- *Congressional Trademark Caucus is a bipartisan, bicameral caucus chaired by Rep. Ted Deutch (D-FL) and Rep. John Ratcliffe (R-TX) in the House and Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE) and Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) in the Senate*
- The event focused on the role of brands in enhancing consumer health and safety, including U.S. national security considerations
- Commissioner for Trademarks, Mary Boney Denison, provided the keynote address
- Rep. Ted Deutch (D-FL) also gave remarks
- Other speakers included representatives from the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center, Merck and the National Basketball Association

Congressional Events

115th Congress (first session)

Hill Activity Related to Telework Enhancement Act Pilot Program (TEAPP)

Sept. – Nov. 2017

- USPTO's TEAPP authority is set to expire in December 2017
- USPTO senior officials have met with Members and senior staff from the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee (HOGGR) to discuss the benefits that TEAPP has provided for the agency
- HOGGR has circulated draft language of a House bill extending the program through December 31, 2020 which is expected to be considered this month.

Resource Slide:

USPTO's Office of Governmental Affairs: Overview

Structure: 10 Staff (mix of attorneys and non-attorneys)

Core Mission

**Represent USPTO
on Capitol Hill**

*(Advance PTO's
legislative agenda,
prepare testimony, brief
staff, provide technical
advice)*

**Respond to
Requests from
Members of
Congress and
Facilitate
Clearance**

*(constituent issues, clear
IP policy documents
within the
Administration)*

**Build Relationships
and Maintain
Goodwill with
Elected Officials**

*(Support regional office
engagement, build
fed/state relationships &
stakeholder outreach)*

Questions and Comments

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